The First Love, in Which Christ Is Everything to You

When you made your covenant with God, did you truly renounce yourself and joyfully receive all His teaching?

 Answer: No, there are still areas where I disagree with what He has He taught (wrong) — Explanation: Renouncing yourself means giving up your own will, your personal opinions, and any attitude that is not in accordance with God. It is the act by which a person ceases to rule himself and submits entirely to the divine will.

The opposite of self-denial is being your own god — living according to your own convictions, even when they contradict the teachings of Christ. Making yourself equal with God, in the negative sense, means retaining your spiritual autonomy, refusing correction, and considering yourself the supreme authority in your life. It is a subtle but profound form of pride and resistance to divine truth.

Lord Jesus, although He had the image of God, denied Himself and chose complete obedience. If we do not deny ourselves as He did, but hold on to our opinions, our will, and our opposition to the Word, then we cannot speak of a genuine new birth. Denying ourselves is proof that we have given up being "gods" in our own eyes and have chosen to be disciples of Christ.

The true new birth:

• Is due to a submissive heart that accepts and loves the whole teaching of Christ, not just the convenient parts.

• It leaves no room for negotiation with God's will, but will bring about a transformation of the mind and heart.

• It is due to self-denial, in order to live in obedience and service.

If you still resist Christ's teachings—even in one aspect—it is a sign that you have not truly been born again. Resistance to the Word of Christ, which is the seed of God, means rejecting the source through which the new man is born. Where the seed is not received, the ground is hardened and cannot come to life.

I encourage you to approach God with sincerity, to deny yourself, and to give up the desire to be equal with God.

 Answer: Yes — Explanation: If you have denied yourself — your will, your natural desires, and worldly thinking—this is a sign of authentic rebirth and true discipleship. Self-denial is the foundation of discipleship, as the Lord said: “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).

This call is reinforced by the Lord's words in Luke 14:27, which emphasize the seriousness of discipleship: "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

Therefore, discipleship is not a superficial choice, but a life of self-denial, obedience, and wholehearted pursuit of Christ. Self-denial:

• Means giving up the right to live your life according to your own plans and submitting yourself completely to God's will.

• It manifests itself in deep love and complete obedience, even when Christ's teachings are difficult or contrary to your nature.

• It is proof that Christ is truly the Lord of your life. This self-denial is only possible when we are deeply fascinated by Christ and His Word and love Him with all our hearts.

Self-denial is not a simple exercise of will or a moral discipline imposed from outside. It springs from a heart that has seen the inner beauty of Christ's character. When our spiritual eyes are opened to admire Christ for how He lived in obedience to the Father, then our will naturally begins to bow before His will.

Fascination with Christ is not a passing emotion, but a deep, transforming attraction. When we truly love Him, we no longer want to run our own lives. We no longer want to hold on to our own opinions if they are not in agreement with His. We begin to desire what He desires, to think as He thinks, to live as He lived.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet “Are You Truly Born Again? – Biblical Questionnaire”, which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.